

Appl. No. 10/649,055
Amdt. Dated Jan. 13, 2006
Response to Office Action Dated Oct. 7, 2005

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-33 were pending.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, and 11-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Qu, *et al.* (2002/0023752). The limitation of claim 5 has been added to claim 1; claims 7 and 10 have been made independent claims containing the limitations of claim 1 and of claims 7 and 10 respectively. Claims 2-6, 8-9, and 11-19 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14-18, 20, 21, and 24 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of copending Application No. 11/198,422. Should conflicting claims be found allowable, an appropriate Terminal Disclaimer will be filed in the prosecution of Application No. 11/198,422, which has a later priority date.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 11-13, 20, and 24 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of copending Application No. 10/888,494. Application 10/888,494 is not owned by Schlumberger Technology Corporation, has never been owned by Schlumberger Technology Corporation, and is not subject to assignment to Schlumberger Technology Corporation, the assignee of the present application. Application 10/888,494 has no inventors in common with the present application. Therefore Applicants believe this rejection should be withdrawn.


Claims 22, 23, and 35-33 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, Applicants believe they have overcome the rejections of the base claim and ask that this objection be withdrawn.

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In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional required fee, or credit any excess fee paid, to Deposit Account 04-1579 (\$6,074.80).

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas O. Mitchell
Agent for Applicants
Reg. No. 47,800

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Schlumberger Technology Corporation
110 Schlumberger Drive, MD-1
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
Ph: (281) 285-4490
Fax: (281) 285-8569